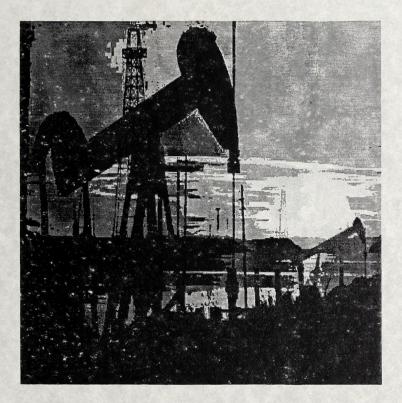
AL, 1, 1671 C. 2

# OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND DISEASE IN ALBERTA

# Upstream Oil and Gas 1994 to 1998



Lost-Time Claims and Claim Rates



July 1999

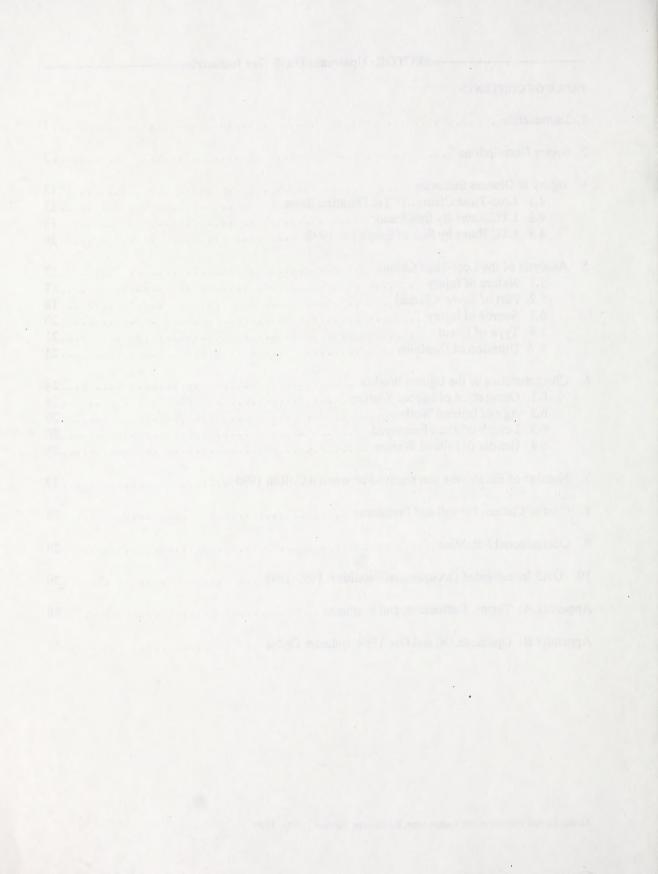
Information Services Alberta Human Resources and Employment 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 10808-99 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0G5 Phone: (403) 427 - 8531 Fax: (403) 422 - 5070 E-Mail Address: commshare@lab.gov.ab.ca Alberta Human Resources and Employment website: http://www.gov.ab.ca/hre Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2017 with funding from University of Alberta Libraries

https://archive.org/details/upstreamoilgasal1999albe

SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries   TABLE OF CONTENTS   1. Introduction 1   2. Sector Descriptions 2   4. Injury & Disease Statistics 13   4.1 Lost-Time Claim(LTC) & Duration Rates 13   4.2 LTC Rates By Sub-Sector 13   4.3 LTC Rates by Size of Employer-1998 16   5. Analysis of the Lost-Time Claims 17   5.2 Part of Body Affected 18   5.3 Source of Injury 20   5.4 Type of Event 21   5.5 Duration of Disability 23   6. Characteristics of the Injured Worker 24   6.1 Occupation of Injured Worker 26   6.3 Length of Time Employed 26   6.4 Gender of Injured Worker 26   7. Number of Employers that received/renewed a CoR in 1998 27   8. Cost of Claims, Payroll and Premiums 28   9. Occupational Fatalities 29	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	
1. Introduction	
4. Injury & Disease Statistics 13   4.1 Lost-Time Claim(LTC) & Duration Rates 13   4.2 LTC Rates By Sub-Sector 13   4.3 LTC Rates by Size of Employer-1998 16	
5. Analysis of the Lost-Time Claims 17   5.1 Nature of Injury 17   5.2 Part of Body Affected 18   5.3 Source of Injury 20   5.4 Type of Event 21	
6.1 Occupation of Injured Worker246.2 Age of Injured Worker266.3 Length of Time Employed26	
9. Occupational Fatalities	
10. OHS Investigated Occupational Fatalities: 1993-1998	
Appendix A: Terms, Definitions, and Formulas	
Appendix B: Upstream Oil and Gas 1998 Industry Codes	

4

Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Information Services, July, 1999



## 1. Introduction

#### The Mission Of Alberta Human Resources and Employment

The mission of Alberta Human Resources and Employment is to work in partnership with Albertans to promote safe and healthy workplace, a quality working life and comprehensive safety systems. To this end, Alberta Human Resources and Employment recognizes that monitoring health and safety in Alberta will help to ensure primary workplace health and safety concerns are actively managed and prioritized, and resources directed where most needed.

This report summarizes the lost-time injuries and disease descriptions, characteristics of the injured worker, and the risk of injury to workers in Alberta's upstream oil and gas industries. Cost of the injuries, revenues in terms of total payroll and total premiums, the number of employers that received/renewed a Certificate of Recognition (CoR) as a result of external audit in 1998 are also presented. Finally, summary of occupational fatalities accepted by the WCB for compensation and brief descriptions of fatalities investigated by Occupation Health and Safety are also provided.

#### Description of Upstream Oil and Gas Industries

The Upstream oil and gas industries can be subdivided into the following sub-sectors. Exploration, Oilfield Maintenance and Construction, Well Servicing with Service Rigs and Power Swivels, Drilling of Oil and Gas Wells, Oilfield Downhole and Other Services, Tar Sands, Petroleum Producers, and Oilfield Trucking Services.

The next section gives the descriptions of the sub-sectors.

# 2. Sector Descriptions

# Sub-Sector # 1: Exploration

## i. Seismic Geophysical/Mineral Exploration(Industry # 09200)

This industry involves conducting exploration using seismic technology for the purpose of locating formations beneath the earth's surface that may produce usable minerals such as coal, or oil and gas.

The basic procedure used to locate favourable formation beneath the earth's surface is to send shock waves into the ground, and record the patterns on seismic recording equipment.

When exploring for oil and gas, any one of the following three methods may be employed to create the shock waves:

- 1. Seismographic Dynamite exploded in a shot hole;
- 2. Vibraseismic tractor or truck mounted vibrators which are released to the ground at certain points; and

3. Vacuum Guns - truck mounted piston strikes base plate to send shock waves through the ground

When exploring for minerals, such as coal, shock waves are created by means of small hand tools. Larger equipment is not required as minerals formations are generally not located as deep below the surface as are oil and gas.

Sound waves are received through instrument referred to as geophones. The geophones are in turn wired to recording instruments that log the sound wave patterns. The data processing and analysis of the obtained information, may or may not, be part of the contract.

This industry does not cover shot hole drilling. This is normally subcontracted out to another company classified in industry 09201. Should an employer conduct drilling in conjunction with exploration, an additional industry is required.

Geophysical Exploration, other than seismic, is classified in industry 86405. The key difference is the generation and recording shock waves.

## ii. Shot Hole Drilling (Industry # 09201)

The purpose of this industry is to drill bore holes for the purpose of holding explosives used in seismic exploration activities.

Shot hole drilling is performed with a small truck-mounted driller. This is normally a shallow drilling operation, drilling to a depth of 50 to 75 ft. This activity involves drilling only, as an exploration crew is responsible for placing and discharging the explosives. When the explosives are discharged or shot, the vibrations are recorded on a seismograph.

This industry applies specifically to shot hole drilling. Water well drilling is performed in a similar manner but is included under industry 42130.

## Sub-Sector # 2: Oilfield Maintenance & Construction

**Oilfield Construction and/or Maintenance (Upstream of Processing Plants)(Industry # 06304)** This classification describes general contracting business that undertake turn-key construction and maintenance projects at facilities and lease sites upstream of gas plants.

Businesses may construct oil and gas wells, battery tanks, and compressor stations upstream of the processing facility. Construction activities may extend into ties-ins, installing/removing pumpjacks, dehydrators, and secondary construction activities of installing fences and gates. Maintenance activities may include painting, welding, pipefitting, cleaning oil spills, clearing a lease road, and maintaining the grounds in and around the site.

## Sub-Sector # 3 : Well Servicing With Service Rigs Including Power Swivels Well Servicing by means of service rigs including power swivels (Industry # 09903)

This industry is used to cover oil and gas well servicing operations which are conducted with the use of well servicing rigs. Service rigs can be used on well completions once drilling operations have been completed to bring a producing well on stream as well as work over service to existing oil and gas wells. This industry is also used to cover the operation of power swivels used to replace working components of service rigs and work over units.

Service rigs are smaller and more mobile than drilling rigs, (smaller to a large mobile crane) and usually truck mounted. A service rig operator, derrick hand and two floor hands usually make up a service rig crew. Most service rig operators will have shop operations for structural and mechanical repair on their rigs.

Power Swivels are hydraulic motor driven pipe rotating machines specifically intended to replace the drilling swivels, the kelly stem, the kelly bushing and the rotary table on service rigs and work over units. They are trailer mounted and completely portable. Power swivel can be used to provide rotary power for the internal cutting of casing, drill pipe and tubing for drilling out packers, plugs, cement and other obstructions, for milling and scraping, drilling short distances, coring and as a utility tool in fishing operations.

# Sub-Sector # 4: Drilling of oil and gas wells

## Drilling of oil and gas well (Industry # 9600)

Oil well drilling is performed by independent drilling companies contracted directly to oil companies. Oil companies will coordinate the drilling program and may provide on site direction and supervision, but do not become physically involved in operating the drilling rig.

The drilling of gas and oil wells is carried out by small crew, including a rig manager (tool push), driller, derrick hand, motor hand, floor hands (roughneck) and lease hands. Drilling can be

round-the-clock operations using shift workers

The drilling of gas and oil wells involves the use of large heavy duty rigs or derricks that may be capable of drilling several thousand feet into the earth. The equipment is set up at a predetermined location an drilling commences for two to four weeks. Considerable time is spent setting up the equipment; however, this is considered part of the drilling operations. Also included is the activity of levelling the drilling rig. This involves the use of heavy hydraulic jacks (50 to 100 tons) to raise or lower the oil derrick prior to drilling. Heavy timbers are used to stabilize where necessary. Due to tremendous torque or twisting pressure exerted by the drill stem, it is necessary that the rig be level.

Blowout control and well fire fighting are also in this industry. The procedure necessary to cap a wildcat well varies. Sometimes a blowout cab be brought under control by pumping mud or cement to stop the flow, or replacing valves on the blowout preventer. If a well catches fire, the fire must be extinguished before the well can be capped. A common method is to use explosives to cut off the fire's oxygen supply. Employers that are hired to set explosives for this purpose are covered in this industry.

# Sub-Sector # 5: Downhole & Other Oilfield Services

## i. Field Production Operators (Industry # 06305)

This industry covers the 'contract' operation of upstream oil and gas production/processing facilities not classified elsewhere. This is primarily a labor service contracted to oil and gas producers for the routine day to day operation of facilities such as those described in industry 6300, including the operation of gas plants.

This is normally a daily responsibility. The duties of oil field production or gas well and battery operators will vary with different companies. Some may only be responsible for checking wellhead equipment. Others may work entirely at the battery and a majority of operators look after both wellhead and battery. If enhanced recovery methods are used on the well, Field Production Operators may operate these units in addition to their other duties.

Duties also include taking pressure and flow reading at the oil well, seeing equipment is runniing properly, checking flow lines, reading meters, looking for leaks, and may also involve working at the treater plant where samples may be required and reading needed on the levels of oil, gas, water and the addition of chemicals to the unit. At the water disposal unit, meters and gauges are checked, which measure pressure and water capacity levels to ensure there is sufficient space to hold the water coming in from the treating unit. At oil storage tanks, operators check pressure, storage capabilities and levels of the tanks. When gas is involved operators check the Christmas tree which controls the flow and pressure of the well. They inspect valves, take readings of gauges, temperature, pressure and flow rate.

The operators and their helpers are responsible for routine maintenance and light housekeeping

## SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-

duties only when a condition of the contract to operate the facility.

## ii. Vacuum Removal-Industrial, Commercial, and Oil Field(industry # 06306)

This industry includes the vacuum truck removal or recovery of industrial by-products, pollutants, hydrocarbons, toxic waste and other liquid waste from oil wells, gas wells, refineries, heavy oil extraction plants, chemical plants and other industrial plants sites. It also includes the cleaning up of fertilizer, grain, sulphur and other dry waste products from industrial and commercial sites such as elevators and rail car derailment sites. Septic tanks and farm waste removal is also part of this industry.

Equipment used ranges in size from a single axle truck with small tank storage and moderate pumping power, to tandem and larger trucks with larger tank capacity and powerful pumping units.

The major feature of this industry is to recover and remove products from an employer's work site. The transportation of the product is an integral part of the services provided.

This industry includes hydro-trenching/hydro-excavating where water is applied under pressure to the ground creating a mud/slurry which is simultaneously vacuumed up by a truck, equipped with both vacuum and water ejection apparatus and holding tank. The purpose is to expose pipe/utilities for further trenching and excavating without causing pipe ruptures.

## iii. Mud Logging (Industry # 09900)

Employers engaged in hydrocarbon well/mud logging are included in this industry. Hydrocarbon well/mud logging is a procedure used in oil field drilling to log the strata and other pertinent details on a well during the drilling process.

Drilling mud is a mixture of pulverized barite, clays, chemicals and other various substances. Mud tanks and pumps are used to circulate the mud down the well bore during drilling operation. In addition to bringing cuttings to the surface, drilling mud cools and lubricate the bit and drill stem, protect against blowouts by holding back subsurface pressures, and deposits a mud cake on the wall of the borehole to prevent loss of fluids to the formation

A geological technician sets up at the drill site. Samples of drill cutting and gas, entrapped in the mud, are analysed and the data recorded. They also analyse drill bit performance, rate of penetration and other information related to the drilling operations as required by the oil company. Log data and details are turned over to the oil companies for further study, and decisions concerning the drilling operations are made.

Equipment used to conduct the analysis includes chromatographs, total gas analysers, U.V. box and microscopes.

## iv. Pressure Cleaning Services (Industry # 09902)

These are mobile cleaning services conducted with the use of truck-mounted tanks equipped with

#### SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-

pressure pumps that eject water, steam, air or hot oil for industrial, commercial or oilfield cleaning purpose.

Industrial and commercial applications will be cleaning of dirt, oil, grease or debris from anything ranging from buildings and plant equipment to rail cars and mobile equipment as well as flushing sewers and drains.

In the oil field, high pressure air, water or steam is used to remove sand, wax and other debris from well site production equipment and storage tanks. This industry also covers pressure services using steam and hot oil treatments to clean paraffin from well casing and includes flush by services where truck mounted masts are used to lift sucker rods to allow a flush of the well.

Hot oil, water and steam treatments can be used for thawing of oil field equipment, storage tanks as well as pipe lines, water and sewer lines.

## v. Rathole Drilling And Service Rig Anchoring (Industry # 09904)

Prior to setting up a drilling rig to drill oil and gas wells it is necessary to drill a starter or conductor hole as well as holes for pipe stands known as rat and mouse holes. This is done with truck mounted drilling rigs. This industry is also used to cover the rig anchoring operations which install ground anchors primarily to secure service rigs during operations and also to secure flare stacks.

The oil company, or contractor arranges site survey and access to the area, and indicates where the holes are to be drilled. Unlike drilling or service rigs, where sections of the drill stem are used, a one piece truck mounted auger is used in these operations. Three holes are drilled from 16 to 36 inches in diameter depending on requirements.

A conductor hole is drilled to a depth of 30 to 40 feet ( the deepest may be 60 feet, but this is rare). A 16 or 19 inch pipe, or casing is put into the hole and cemented around the outside to hold it in place. The conductor hole is the main drill hole that the drilling rigs start their drilling operations in.

Anchoring is relatively new industry which was spawned by changes to safety regulations governing the set up of service rig. Rig anchoring services are completed with the use of truck mounted equipment, which will screw an auger type piece of iron into the ground until solid base is reached. The anchor is pull tested at 15 to 20,000 lbs. Safety cables are then used to secure service rigs or flare stacks to the anchors. Anchoring companies do not usually fasten the cables.

## vi. Oil field Downhole Services (Industry # 09911)

This industry covers a wide spectrum of oilfield downhole services related to well completion, stimulation, testing and wireline services. This industry does not cover well servicing operations with the use of well servicing rigs. Employers in this industry usually offer a multitude of the above service to their clients with a variety of equipment, down hole tools and truck mounted units.

6

Services in this industry can include:

<u>Directional drilling</u> services involve only the supply of equipment and specialized supervision to the oil company. This work is done during the drilling process with the physical work or actual drilling done by the drilling crew.

<u>Wireline services</u> involve lowering special instruments into the well for testing purpose. A wireline may also be used to pull instrument or scrape debris out of the well.

<u>Oil and gas well perforating</u> involves lowering explosive device into the well on a wire line. When the required depth is reached, the device is detonated by an electric current. The explosive perforates the well casing, allowing the flow of oil at different levels.

<u>Well testing activities</u> include testing production levels. <u>Production testing</u> is performed by compressor equipment, usually truck mounted, which introduces water, air, or nitrogen into the line under high pressure and records information on pressure instruments. A separator may also be used to test flow or proportion of gas/oil and water in the flow.

Smaller hand held recording instruments may also be used for testing purposes. Dynamometers are surface instrument used to test downhole pumps and pump jack performance. Echometers are a downhole instrument used to log fluid levels and require the discharge of blank shell to generate shock waves which are then recorded.

After a shot hole has been drilled, the hole is usually never used again and must be closed for environmental reasons. Shot hole cementers place a plug part way down the hole, then fill the hole with cement from the plug to the surface. <u>Cementing</u> also involves pumping cement downhole to secure the well casing.

*Fracturing* is the process of forcing, under high pressure, a mud-sand slurry with carbon dioxide or nitrogen to expand or fracture the formation, allowing the oil or gas to escape the well.

<u>Chemical treatment</u> involve forcing/injecting stimulation fluids into the well casing to clear contaminants, remove paraffin and hydrates for well stimulation.

<u>Under balanced drilling</u> is a down hole process where lighter drilling fluids are used to lubricate the drilling bit and drill stem. The purpose of this process is to reduce cost and reduce the need for well stimulation in completing the well.

## vii. Well Casing Services (Industry # 09915)

This industry is intended to cover those employers who engage in a variety of services related functions on active drilling rigs.

Employers classified in this industry may engage in any one or more of the following activities:

<u>Oil and Gas Well Power Tong Operations</u>: Involves the use of large truck mounted hydraulic tongs to screw together or break apart sections of pipe (or casing) when being placed in, or removed from the drill hole.

<u>Hydraulically operated Snubbing Units</u>: units are truck mounted and are used to move tubular products in and out of the oil or gas well which has pressure at the surface ('live well'). There is a hydraulic jack which clamps on to the pipe to control and overcome the forces on the tubular goods exerted by the well bore pressure. By moving the jack up and down, and releasing and resetting the clamps, the tubulars can be put into or removed from the well bore. The second part of the Snubbing Units are the blow-out preventers which are also hydraulically operated and are used to control the pressure on the well. Snubbing services are used primarily in work overs and well completions; however, drilling contractors may also require their services.

<u>Cleaning of Pipe Threads at Well Site</u>: prior to the casing being placed in the well hole, the pipe threads must be cleaned. Well casing crews clean the pipe threads using varsol, wire brushes and rags.

<u>Transport Pipe at Drill Site</u>: Pipe (or casing), found on a pipe rack approx. 100 feet away from the drilling rig, is transported to the rig floor by a carrier suspended on a wire cable running from a winch permanently mounted on a truck. These units used to transport the pipe are referred to as pickup/lay down units.

<u>*Torque Monitoring*</u>: using a gauge or a computer monitoring system the amount of torque applied when joining two joints of pipe together by means of power tong is monitored and controlled.

Employers that install blow-out preventers are also included in this industry.

*viii.* Servicing Christmas Trees on Oil Wells by Means of a Tree Saver (Industry # 09921) An oil well 'Christmas tree' is a series of pipes and valves that are situated on the well head after drilling of the well has been completed. This equipment need to be protected when fracturing a well.

The tree saver is a heavy gauged piece of pipe (approximately 2 metres long, 5 centimetres in diameter and weighs 90 kilograms), which is inserted through the Christmas tree and into the well tubing to prevent the fracturing fluid from wearing away at the valves and parts of the Christmas tree. The saver is held in place by means of a bolted coupling and rubber sleeve.

## ix. Liquid Waste Treatment & Disposal (industry # 09927)

Employers in this industry are engaged in the chemical treatment and disposal of water in sump pits located on oil and gas well drilling sites. It should be noted that employers who pump water to the drilling rig, from a nearby water source, by means of pumps and irrigation piping are also classified in this industry. The equipment used is the same as that of employers pumping water out of a sump pit, and it is part and parcel of the water system used in the drilling process.

#### -SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries--

Samples of the sump water are analysed by independent laboratories to determine what treatment program may be implemented so as to separate the solid wastes from the liquid, and to make the liquid safe for return to the environment. The treatment program must be approved by the Energy Resources Conservation Board prior to its implementation. Once the waste treatment company has applied the recommended program, they must then send in a sample of the treated sump liquid to the E.R.C.B., who must verify that the treatment was successful. Once approved, the water is pumped out of the sump pit into the surrounding environment. The solid wastes are often not harmful to the environment, and therefore left in the sump pit.

Some employers will use a mechanical system (referred to as a centrifuge) through which they pump the sump pit waste in order to separate the solids from the liquids. Chemicals required to remove any impurities from the water are added to the system. The same E.R.C.B. standards discussed above must be adhered to.

## Sub-Sector # 6: Tar Sands

*i.* Mining & Processing of Bituminous Sands for Oil Extraction (Industry # 06600) The industry covers employers engaged in both the mining and the processing of bituminous sands which at this time is exclusive to the Athabasca oil sands deposits.

This is an open pit mining process that removes oil laden sand from the earth and transport this sand to an extraction plant.

Draglines with booms measuring over 100 metres, are equipped with enormous buckets that dig up the oil sand. Bucket wheel excavators, equipped with a series of toothed bucket on a revolving wheel, are used to scoop up the sand and put it on conveyors or loaded onto specialized trucks for transport to an extraction plant. Bitumen is then separated from the sand, in the plant, by a series of automated units using steam and chemical agents. Once the raw bitumen is separated, it is upgraded into synthetic crude oil because it contains impurities, and its too thick and heavy to flow through pipelines.

Upgrading units include the coker, which breaks down the bitumen into smaller molecules and the fractionator, which separates the bitumen products into gas, naphtha and gas-oil molecules, removing the impurities. Upgrading plants are comparable to oil refineries in many ways. The end product, synthetic crude oil, is shipped to refineries for further processing into other products such as gasoline, jet fuel and lubricating oil.

*ii.* Research & Development, Oil Sands & Heavy Oil Recovery (Industry # 06601) Employers in this industry specialize in research and development into new technologies for recovering oil from heavy oil deposits and bituminous sand through 'in situ' or 'well' recovery methods.

Employers will design and operate test facilities for the research and development purpose. This is purely a research industry and is not intended for exploration or commercial processing

#### ---SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries--

activities. Once employers begin operating on a commercial basis, the operation would be classified in industry 06300.

Contract operators may be engaged to operate test facilities and would be classified along with other upstream production operators in industry 06305.

## Sub-Sector # 7: Oil/Gas Exploration/ Development- Upstream Operations Oil & Gas Exploration & Development-upstream operations (Industry # 06300)

This industry covers all 'upstream' oil field activities of employers which generate revenue from the production and sale of crude oil and/or natural gas. This includes both the small independent producer and major integrated oil and gas companies.

Oil and gas companies direct/control/evaluate/supervise oil and gas exploration and development; however, they subcontract the actual field operations prior to the production stage (i.e. seismic, drilling). In effect, they are general contractors for this phase of the industry.

The operation of all upstream production/processing facilities are covered under this classification when conducted by the owner/producer.

Oil or gas marketing firms, companies which are not producers but purchase product from other producers and resell, are considered part of this industry. They take title to the product and generate revenue from the sale of crude oil or natural gas.

Large oil companies may become involved in all aspect of oil exploration, processing and sale. Smaller companies may become involved only in the production and/or sale. Other companies may become involved in oil exploration purely on a speculative basis. All such employers are covered under this industry.

Upstream production facilities include:

- oil/gas well, well head equipment
- flow lines/gathering systems tied into field processing facilities
- battery sites/compressors stations
- crude oil separators and natural gas dehydrators/treaters
- natural gas/sulfur processing plants
- heavy oil projects including steam generation
- other enhanced recovery methods

Gas processing plants are normally located in the vicinity of the producing fields, and are tied directly into gas well through a network of gathering systems. This is considered to be an upstream production activity by the industry and is a common activity of major producers. Gas plants incorporate process technology, similar to refineries and petrochemical plants, for the purpose of removing impurities such as sulfur and water prior to transmission to the market.

## -SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-----

# Sub-Sector # 8: Oilfield Trucking Services

## **Oilfield Trucking Services (Industry # 50720)**

This industry describes businesses that operate for-hire trucking equipment for the purpose or ability to transport oversized or overweight loads, off-highway loads, in the oilfield. Services in this industry include for-hire specialized trucking services to and from oil and gas lease sites, not described under Specialized Hauling (industry 50701), or bulk or tank truck hauling (industry 50714)

Businesses may own or lease trucks, vehicles and equipment and shipping/receiving facilities or terminals. Business may opt to subcontract lease operators to provide trucking/delivery services, while only conducting scheduling, dispatching, and billing services in-house.

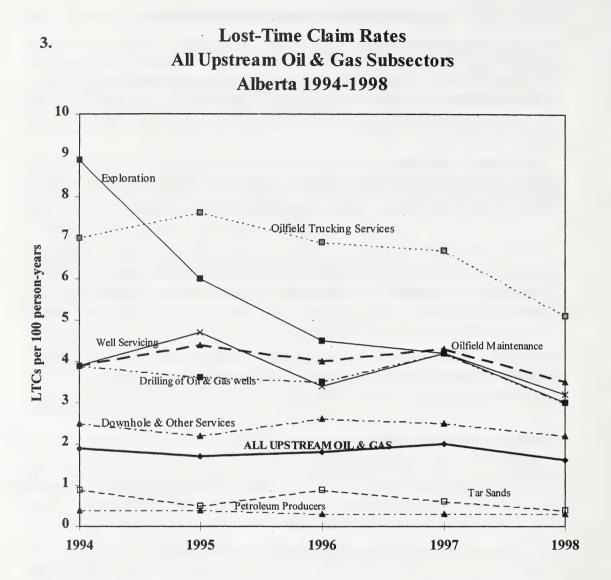
As most oil and gas lease sites are located in remote areas, vehicles are typically modified to operate in an off-road environment. Vehicles are usually equipped with positive air shut-offs. These attachments prevent engines from running once turned off, particularly in areas of highly combustible/explosive gases. The industry includes rig moving and operating pilot cars, and businesses in this industry may provide some highway hauling services using standard flatdecks and trucks in the course of a move.

Business may utilize specialized trucking equipment with tire chains, skid plates, heavy-duty bumpers, winches, cherry pickers and may employ drivers, labourers (swampers), warehouse/yard staff, forklift drivers, mechanics, dispatch/traffic, sales/estimators, office/administrative staff.

## Injury and Disease Analysis Summary

In 1998,

- Estimated person-years for all upstream oil and gas industries rose by about 3% while the total lost-time claims reduced by 22%. This resulted in a 20% reduction in the LTC rate to 1.6 per 100 person-years worked from 2.0 in 1997.
- All the sub-sector had a decrease in their LTC rates from 1997
- Although sub-sector 7-Oil and Gas Exploration and Development- and was the largest in terms of estimated person-years (44% of total Person-years), it had the lowest LTC rate among the sub-sectors.
- Combined leg (leg, ankle and foot) was the most commonly body part injured followed closely by the back.
- Majority of the lost-time claimants were well drillers.
- 33% of the claimants were new(less than 6 months) at their job before their injury or disease.



Lost-Time Claim Rate	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All Upstream Oil and Gas	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.6
Exploration	8.9	6.0	4.5	4.2	3.0
Oilfield Maintenance and Construction	3.9	4.4	4.0	4.3	3.5
Well Services with Service Rigs	3.9	4.7	3.4	4.2	3.2
Drilling of Oil and Gas	3.9	3.6	3.5	4.2	3.0
Downhole & Other Oilfield Services	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.2
Tar Sands	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.4
Petroleum Producers	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Oilfield Trucking Services	7.0	7.6	6.9	6.7	5.1

Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Information Services, July, 1999

# 4. Injury & Disease Statistics

# 4.1 Lost-Time Claim(LTC) & Duration Rates

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	4,913	\$9,022,191	73,616	65,778	89	1,413	1.9
1995	5,160	\$11,077,692	70,766	53,984	76	1,236	1.7
1996	5,645	\$9,364,951	72,485	54,843	76	1,303	1.8
1997	6,650	\$12,696,143	80,484	66,661	83	1,645	2.0
1998	7,205	\$11,476,578	82,714	61,219	74	1,281	1.6

# All Upstream Oil & Gas Industries

# 4.2 LTC Rates By Sub-Sector

## **Sub-Sector 1 - Exploration**

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	195	\$1,095,413	2,714	11,392	420	242	8.9
1995	217	\$1,298,580	2,531	7,349	290	151	6.0
1996	222	\$808,650	2,605	5,097	196	117	4.5
1997	221	\$640,472	2,880	5,898	205	122	4.2
1998	228	\$532,225	2,711	3,967	146	80	3.0

#### Sub-Sector 2-Oilfield Maintenance

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	684	\$919,501	3,738	5,676	152	147	3.9
1995	760	\$847,724	3,495	5,962	171	155	4.4
1996	778	\$1,164,171	4,019	5,874	146	161	4.0
1997	858	\$1,871,160	5,264	8,100	154	225	4.3
1998	901	\$903,554	4,839	6,575	136	168	3.5

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	101	\$1,059,491	3,575	9,362	262	139	3.9
1995	113	\$2,784,272	3,543	8,137	230	166	4.7
1996	116	\$1,418,965	4,293	8,832	206	146	3.4
1997	125	\$1,543,160	5,055	10,254	203	211	4.2
1998	112	\$1,991,375	4,886	9,264	190	158	3.2

# Sub-Sector 3-Well Servicing by Means of Service Rigs

# Sub-Sector 4-Drilling of Oil & Gas Wells

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	58	\$2,184,260	6,578	15,629	238	254	3.9
1995	61	\$1,618,023	4,876	9,831	202	175	3.6
1996	66	\$1,986,527	5,700	10,747	189	197	3.5
1997	79	\$2,661,066	6,871	13,995	204	289	4.2
1998	81	\$2,221,502	6,077	11,475	189	182	3.0

## Sub-Sector 5-Oilfield Downhole Services

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	1,576	\$2,009,713	12,093	13,405	111	303	2.5
1995	1,914	\$2,662,758	12,528	11,259	90	277	2.2
1996	2,139	\$2,253,290	14,151	14,252	101	366	2.6
1997	2,590	\$2,652,673	17,275	14,949	87	438	2.5
1998	2,942	\$3,959,219	17,374	19,077	110	38,8	2.2

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	14	\$350,948	6,503	1,057	16	60	0.9
1995	12	\$270,824	6,975	519	7	37	0.5
1996	11	\$132,309	6,051	539	9	54	0.9
1997	11	\$145,657	6,025	702	12	35	0.6
1998	14	\$52,662	6,921	306	N/A	26	0.4

# Sub-Sector 6- Tar Sands

## Sub-Sector 7-Oil/Gas Exploration & Development-Upstream Operations

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	1,911	\$895,161	36,485	3,639	10	133	0.4
1995	1,647	\$792,146	34,980	3,085	9	136	0.4
1996	1,831	\$673,641	33,410	1,890	6	107	0.3
1997	2,179	\$1,810,837	33,765	3,430	10	100	0.3
1998	2,274	\$643,090	36,596	2,788	8	111	0.3

# **Sub-Sector 8-Oilfield Trucking Services**

Year	# of Accounts	Cost	Person Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	LTCs	LTC Rate
1994	374	\$507,705	1,930	5,618	291	135	7.0
1995	436	\$803,365	1,838	7,842	427	139	7.6
1996	482	\$927,398	2,255	7,612	337	155	6.9
1997	587	\$1,371,117	3,348	9,333	279	225	6.7
1998	653	\$1,172,951	3,310	7,767	235	168	5.1

# 4.3 LTC Rates by Size of Employer: 1998

Size of Employer	# of Accounts	LTCs	Person - Years	LTC Rate
A: O< PYs <=1	3,497	31	1,822	1.7
B: 1 < PYs < 5	2,185	103	4,160	2.5
C: 5 <= PYs < 10	369	78	2,577	3.0
D: 10 <= PYs < 20	300	127	4,230	3.0
E: 20 <= PYs < 40	174	134	4,974	2.7
F: 40 <= PYs < 100	123	193	7,819	2.5
G: PYs >=100	135	608	57,131	1.1
H: Invalid	422	7	0	N/A
Total	7,205	1,281	82,714	1.6

Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Information Services, July, 1999

# 5. Analysis of the Lost-Time Claims

# 5.1 Nature of Injury

LOST-TIME CLAIMS		occu	JRRENCE	/EAR		To	tal
ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
SPRAIN, STRAIN	517	419	405	594	460	2,395	34.8
FRACTURE & DISLOCATION							
FRACTURE	253	192	232	327	244	1,248	18.1
OTHER NATURE	23	22	24	29	30	128	1.9
SUBTOTAL	276	214	256	356	274	1,376	20.0
BRUISE, CONTUSION, CRUSHING	190	169	178	205	138	880	12.8
OTHER INJURY	48	40	116	141	118	463	6.7
CUT, LACERATION, PUNCTURE	82	86	60	93	67	388	5.6
OTHER DISEASE	38	62	. 91	74	56	321	4.7
BURN, SCALD-THERMAL	46	41	48	34	48	217	3.2
MULTIPLE INJURIES	46	59	14	25	26	170	2.5
ALL OTHER NATURES, UNS	170	146	135	123	94	668	9.7
Total	1,413	1,236	1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# 5.2 Part of Body Affected

LOST-TIME CLAIMS		0000	JRRENCE Y	(EAR		Total	
ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
BACK							
LUMBAR (LOWER BACK)	213	169	55	57	39	533	7.7
OTHER PART	129	92	255	326	236	1,038	15.1
SUBTOTAL	342	261	310	383	275	1,571	22.8
LEG(S)							
KNEE	118	84	86	121	92	501	7.3
LOWER LEG	33	22	34	35	30	154	2.2
OTHER PART	36	21	39	38	25	159	2.3
SUBTOTAL	187	127	159	194	147	814	11.8
OTHER TRUNK							
SHOULDER(S)	- 78	53	50	. 83	57	321	4.7
CHEST-INCLUDES INTERNAL ORGANS	40	30	37	56	44	207	3.0
HIP(S)-INCUDES PELVIC ORGANS	30	31	39	38	33	171	2.5
OTHER PART	18	31	10	23	13	95	1.4
SUBTOTAL	166	145	136	200	147	794	11.5
ANKLE(S) & FOOT(FEET)-NOT TOES							
ANKLE(S)	- 89	84	87	106	82	448	6.
FOOT(FEET)-NOT ANKLES OR TOES	79	50	64	67	55	315	4.6
SUBTOTAL	168	134	151	173	137	763	11.
FINGER(S)	135	131	113	162	149	690	10.0
WRIST(S) & HAND(S)-NOT FINGERS							
WRIST(S)	49	53	46	61	51	260	3.
HAND(S)-NOT WRISTS OR FINGERS	57	48	46	53	51	255	3.
SUBTOTAL	106	101	92	114	102	515	7.

(CONTINUED)

# Part of Body Affected(continued)

LOST-TIME CLAIMS		0000	JRRENCE Y	EAR		Total	
ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
OTHER HEAD, NECK							
NECK	38	45	36	51	36	206	3.0
OTHER PART	49	39	52	59	53	252	3.7
SUBTOTAL	87	84	88	110	. 89	458	6.7
MULTIPLE MAJOR BODY PARTS	48	65	77	85	65	340	4.9
ARM(S)(ABOVE WRIST)	54	59	52	62	51	278	4.0
EYE(S)-OPTIC NERVE, VISION	41	47	39	46	38	211	3.1
FACE	44	38	33	52	36	203	3.0
ALL OTHER PARTS, UNS	35	44	53	64	45	241	3.5
Total	1,413	1,236	1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# -----SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-----

# 5.3 Source of Injury

LOST-TIME CLAIMS		0000	JRRENCE	/EAR		Total	
ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
SOURCE - UNS	263	262	319	305	236	1,385	20.1
METAL ITEMS-NEC							
PIPE AND FITTINGS	111	120	121	179	98	629	9.1
OTHER SOURCE	87	75	48	50	50	310	4.5
SUBTOTAL	198	195	169	229	148	939	13.7
WORKING SURFACES							
GROUND (OUTDOORS)	99	56	55	105	62	377	5.5
OTHER SOURCE	89	80	78	112	88	447	6.5
SUBTOTAL	188	136	133	217	150	824	12.0
VEHICLES							
HIGHWAY VEHICLES (POWERED)	126	119	113	160	106	624	9.1
OTHER SOURCE	35	28	32	43	35	173	· 2.5
SUBTOTAL	161	147	145	203	141	797	11.6
BODILY MOTION	167	141	145	155	131	739	10.7
HANDTOOLS-UNPOWERED	75	55	64	88	78	360	5.2
BOXES, CONTAINERS	42	36	31	46	46	201	2.9
MACHINES	22	23	30	54	50	179	2.6
ALL OTHER SOURCES	297	241	267	348	301	1,454	21.1
Total	1,413	1,236	1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# 5.4 Type of Event

LOST-TIME CLAIMS ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998		0000	JRRENCE )	EAR		Total	
ALBERTA: 1994 10 1996	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
STRUCK BY							
STRUCK BY FLYING OBJECT	7	29	94	134	84	348	5.1
OTHER TYPE	206	171	101	162	130	770	11.2
SUBTOTAL	213	200	195	296	214	1,118	16.3
OVEREXERTION							
LIFTING OBJECTS	111	93	103	126	117	550	8.0
PULLING/PUSHING OBJECTS	31	30	30	54	35	180	2.6
OTHER TYPE	85	60	53	90	67	355	5.2
SUBTOTAL	227	183	. 186	270	219	1,085	15.8
BODILY REACTION							
REACTION FROM INVOLUNTARY MOTION	94	66	63	59	54	336	4.9
REACTION FROM VOLUNTARY MOTION	71	42	61	62	42	278	4.0
OTHER TYPE	2	35	23	34	30	124	1.8
SUBTOTAL	167	143	147	155	126	738	10.7
CAUGHT IN, UNDER OR BETWEEN	137	125	119	186	143	710	10.3
FALL FROM ELEVATION							
FALL FROM VEHICLES	41	28	34	43	40	186	2.7
OTHER TYPE	93	61	69	121	82	426	6.2
SUBTOTAL	134	89	103	164	122	612	8.9
VEHICLE INCIDENTS	107	113	103	130	100	553	8.0
FALL ON SAME LEVEL							
FALL TO WALKWAY, WORKING SURFACE	- 69	58	49	57	42	275	4.0

(CONTINUED)

# -----SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries------

# Type of Event(continued)

LOST-TIME CLAIMS		0000	JRRENCE Y	EAR		To	tal
ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
FALL ON SAME LEVEL							
FALL ONTO OR AGAINST OBJECTS	38	26	33	41	33	171	2.5
OTHER TYPE	6	6	8	10	10	40	0.6
SUBTOTAL	113	90	90	108	. 85	486	7.1
STRUCK AGAINST	58	29	36	46	. 38	207	3.0
TEMPERATURE EXTREMES							
HOT OBJECTS/SUBSTANCES	32	36	29	20	32	149	2.2
OTHER TYPE	9	4	14	3	3	33	0.5
SUBTOTAL	41	40	43	23	35	182	2.6
CONTACT NOXIOUS SUBSTANCE	<sup>.</sup> 21	47	28	43	37	176	2.6
ALL OTHER TYPES, UNS	195	177	253	224	162	1,011	14.7
Total	1,413	1,236	1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# 5.5 Duration of Disability

LOST-TIME CLAIMS		0000	JRRENCE \	EAR		Total	
ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
01 - 05 DAYS LOST	279	253	278	393	287	1,490	21.7
06 - 10 DAYS LOST	170	156	142	218	151	837	12.2
11 - 15 DAYS LOST	118	96	103	122	97	536	7.8
16 - 20 DAYS LOST	75	86	77	78	67	383	5.6
21 - 30 DAYS LOST	113	112	122	129	97	573	8.3
31 - 40 DAYS LOST	116	86	82	108	74	466	6.8
41 - 50 DAYS LOST	85	64	60	75	79	363	5.3
51 OR MORE DAYS LOST	<b>.</b> 418	309	352	407	334	1,820	26.5
DAYS LOST-UNSPECIFIED, 0	39	74	- 87	115	. 95	410	6.0
Total	1,413	1,236	1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# 6. Characteristics of the Injured Worker

# 6.1 Occupation of Injured Worker

LOST-TIME CLAIMS		OCCL	JRRENCE	/EAR		Total	
ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
OIL & GAS FIELD, MINING							
ROTARY WELL DRILLING	204	216	190	252	211	1,073	15.6
OIL & GAS, MINING-NEC	210	140	144	237	160	891	13.0
LABOR-OIL & GAS, MINING	27	40	39	61	53	220	3.2
OTHER OCCUPATION	34	30	30	41	27	162	2.4
SUBTOTAL	475	426	403	591	451	2,346	34.1
TRANSPORT OPERATORS							
TRUCK DRIVERS	135	148	154	213	173	823	12.0
OTHER OCCUPATION	13	11	8	5	12	49	0.7
SUBTOTAL	148	159	162	218	185	872	12.7
MATERIALS HANDLING-NEC							
FREIGHT HANDLERS, STEVEDORES	- 70	50	69	83	56	328	4.8
OTHER OCCUPATION	12	17	11	29	35	104	1.5
SUBTOTAL	82	. 67	80	112	91	432	6.3
CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS	87	71	60	88	78	384	5.6
PROFESSIONAL		,					
ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING-NEC	- 79	42	21	39	23	204	3.0
OTHER OCCUPATION	34	17	19	21	11	102	1.5
SUBTOTAL	113	59	40	60	34	306	4.4
FABRICATING, REPAIR	66	42	46	52	48	254	3.7
OCCUPATION-NEC							
LABOR - NEC	- 18	19	24	49	53	163	2.4

(CONTINUED)

# 6.1 Occupation of Injured Worker (continued)

LOST-TIME CLAIMS		0000	JRRENCE	/EAR		Total	
ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
OCCUPATION-NEC							
OTHER OCCUPATION	11	6	12	19	23	71	1.0
SUBTOTAL	29	25	36	68	76	234	3.4
MACHINING							
WELDING & FLAME CUTTING	25	30	25	52	31	163	2.4
OTHER OCCUPATION	8	3	2	7	4	24	0.3
SUBTOTAL	33	33	27	59	35	187	2.7
ALL OTHER OCCUPATIONS, UNS	380	354	449	397	283	1,863	27.1
Total	1,413	1,236	´1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# 6.2 Age of Injured Worker

LOST-TIME CLAIMS ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998		0000	JRRENCE	(EAR	,	Total	
ALDERTA: 1994 10 1996	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
15-19 YEARS	90	81	68	118	72	429	6.2
20-24 YEARS	297	257	239	356	265	1,414	20.6
25-34 YEARS	569	490	506	572	448	2,585	37.6
35-44 YEARS	314	269	338	434	332	1,687	24.5
45-54 YEARS	98	93	112	118	116	537	7.8
55-64 YEARS	31	37	37	41	45	191	2.8
65 YRS AND OVER	4		2	3	3	12	0.2
AGE-UNSPECIFIED	10	9	1	3	•	23	0.3
Total	1,413	1,236	1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# 6.3 Length of Time Employed

LOST-TIME CLAIMS ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998		0000	Total				
ALDENIA. 1994 10 1996	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
A. LESS THAN 1 MONTH	278	193	171	269	143	1,054	15.3
B. 1 MONTH TO < 6 MONTHS	430	305	259	411	279	1,684	24.5
C. 6 MONTHS TO < 1 YEAR	161	169	118	158	152	758	11.0
D. 1 YEAR OR MORE	338	388	393	397	337	1,853	26.9
E. TIME-UNSPECIFIED	206	181	362	410	370	1,529	22.2
Total	1,413	1,236	1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# 6.4 Gender of Injured Worker

LOST-TIME CLAIMS ALBERTA: 1994 TO 1998	OCCURRENCE YEAR						tal
ALDERTA. 1994 10 1990	94	95	96	97	98	Number	Percent
MALE	1,359	1,176	1,244	1,582	1,218	6,579	95.7
FEMALE	46	45	34	34	47	206	3.0
GENDER-UNSPECIFIED	8	15	25	29	16	93	1.4
Total	1,413	1,236	1,303	1,645	1,281	6,878	100.0

# 7. Number of Employers that Received/Renewed a CoR in 1998

	# Certified	Cert. &Uncert. (# of accounts)	% Certified
SUB-SECTOR # 1:	10	(0)	
Industry 09200-Seismic Geophysical Exploration	10	69 159	
Industry 09201-Shot Hole Drilling Exploration	13	228	5.7%
SUB-SECTOR # 2: Industry 06304-Oilfield Maintenance & Construction	20	901	2.2%
SUB-SECTOR # 3: Industry 09903-Well Servicing with Service Rigs	11	112	9.8%
SUB-SECTOR # 4: Industry 09600-Drilling of Oil & Gas Wells	6	81	7.4%
SUB-SECTOR # 5:			•
Industry 06305-Field Production Operations	2	1,197	
Industry 06306-Vacuum Removal of Waste	• 9	479	
Industry 09900-Mud Logging	0	22	
Industry 09902-Pressure Cleaning Services	9	471	
Industry 09904-Rathole Drilling/Rig Anchoring	4	59	
Industry 09911-Downhole Services Industry 09915-Well Casing Services	23	546 124	
Industry 09921-Servicing Christmas Trees	1	124	
Industry 09927-Liquid Waste Treatment	1	34	
Downhole & Other Oilfield Services	50	2,942	1.7%
SUB-SECTOR # 6:			
Industry 06600-Mine/Process of Oil Sands	0	11	
Industry 06601-Oil Sands Research/Development	0	3	
Tar Sands	0	14	0.0%
SUB-SECTOR # 7: Industry 06300-Oil/Gas Exploration & Development	3	2,274	0.1%
<b>SUB-SECTOR # 8:</b> Industry 50720-Oilfield Trucking Services	16	653	2.5%
UPSTREAM OIL & GAS SECTOR	119	7,205	1.7%

-----SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-----

	Occurrence Year				
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<b>Transaction Year</b>					
1994	\$7,384,115				
1995	\$4,977,239	\$8,124,897			
1996	\$4,336,071	\$4,500,365	\$7,841,815		
1997	\$2,620,118	\$1,813,114	\$5,060,306	\$9,679,182	
1998	\$2,258,607	\$2,979,642	\$4,717,282	\$7,485,332	\$9,017,981
Total Cost	\$21,576,151	\$17,418,018	\$17,619,404	\$17,164,513	\$9,017,981
Total Payroll	\$2,404,411,800	\$2,423,545,974	\$2,565,109,566	\$2,981,198,974	\$3,038,154,443
<b>Total Premiums</b>	\$63,294,984	\$50,255,704	\$45,928,750	\$57,875,654	\$38,021,748

# 8. Cost of Claims, Payroll and Premiums

The above costs for claims, payroll and premiums are for the five year period 1994 through to 1998. The data is as at July 2, 1999.

The claim cost reflect only paid cost on claims which occurred in the five year period. These paid cost are tracked by year of occurrence and year that the cost were transacted. These claim cost have also had cost relieved that have been deemed beyond the control of the employer.

The payroll have been totalled for each year. The premium is the total of employers' premium paid for each year.

#### ----SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-

# 9. Occupational Fatalities

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which results from a work-related incident or exposure. Alberta Labour classifies occupational fatalities into three general types: motor vehicle incident, workplace incident and occupational diseases. Each is described in detail below.

#### Motor Vehicle Incident

Motor vehicle incident typically involve highway vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This category also includes fatalities involving air plane crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes. etc.

## Workplace Incident

Fatal workplace incidents consists of cases in which the worker dies at a work site, or as a result of injuries sustained at a work site. It is this type of fatality that Alberta Labour may be responsible for investigating.

#### **Occupational Diseases**

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related (e.g. asbestosis, black lung disease). Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed many years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases it is very difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. Thus, the occupational disease category, should not be interpreted to reflect present work site hazardous conditions or exposures.

Each year the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Claims accepted in a particular year does not imply the fatalities occurred in that year.

# Description Of All Upstream Oil & Gas Fatalities Accepted by The WCB Alberta, 1993-1998

Year	Occupational Disease		Motor Vehicle incident		Workplace Incident		Total	
	N	96	N	%	N	%	N	%
1993	0	0	1	16.7	5	83.3	6	100
1994	0	0	5	62.5	3	37.5	8	100
1995	1	4.3	15	65.2	7	30.4	23	100
1996	0	0	8	57.1	6	42.9	14	100
1997	1	5.3	14	73.7	4	21.1	19	100
1998	2	12.5	8	50.0	6	37.5	16	100
Total	4	4.7	51	59.3	31	36.0	86	100

# 10. OHS Investigated Occupational Fatalities: 1993-1998

Sub-sector # 1:(Exploration) (0)

None

Sub-sector # 2:(Oilfield Maintenance & Construction) (1)

YEAR:	1998	FILE:	0891
OCCUPATION:	Apprentice Welder	AGE:	24
INDUSTRY:	Oil Field Construction and/or Maintenance		
	(Upstream of Processing Plants)		
EXPERIENCE:	1.5 years		

DESCRIPTION: A three person crew was in the process of cutting steel pilings for the installation of an above ground pipeline at the Primrose Lake construction site. The piles had been driven into place in pairs. The piles at the incident scene were long, so a backhoe was required to hold the piles while they were being cut. One of the poles had been cut and pulled down. They were setting up to cut the second pile when the welder appeared in front of the piling just as the backhoe bucket was swinging back to hold the pile. The welder was hit on the right side of his head with the bucket of the backhoe resulting in fatal injures.

Sub-sector # 3:(Well Services With Service Rigs & Power Swivels) (6)

YEAR:	1993	FILE:	0775
OCCUPATION:	Derrick man	AGE:	28
INDUSTRY:	Well Servicing with Service Rigs		
EXPERIENCE:	3 years		

DESCRIPTION: A worker was fatally struck by a service rig while in the process of moving from one lease location to another. The rig had travelled up two hills, and was in the process of climbing the third when the rig began slipping in reverse down the hill. The rig travelled in reverse down the hill and into a ditch where it struck and drove over the worker.

YEAR:	1995	FILE:	0811
OCCUPATION:	Roughneck	AGE:	20
INDUSTRY:	Well Servicing with Service Rigs		
EXPERIENCE:	4 months		

DESCRIPTION: At a recently drilled gas well, the service rig workers were in the final stages of well completion, which was to remove the blow out prevention unit (BOP) and prepare installation of the master valve. When the hoist line was raised, the sling tightened up against the pipe nipple and pulled the pipe nipple out of the THS. The pressure in the well head propelled the pipe nipple away from the THS and struck the worker who was in the path of travel.

YEAR:	1995	FILE:	0826
OCCUPATION:	Rig Repairer	AGE:	25
INDUSTRY:	Servicing of Gas and Oil Wells by means of Service Rig	gs	

#### -----SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries------

#### EXPERIENCE:

DESCRIPTION: A well servicing company was contracted by an oil company to rework a well that had been shut-in for six months. The crew prepared the rig matting and the rig was centred over the well. When the rig up was completed, reverse circulation (pumping down casing) was tried and was unsuccessful due to wax build up. The crew decided to back off the rod string by using two 0.91 m. pipe wrenches across from each other on the polish rod clamp. There were two workers on each wrench, one pulling and the other pushing. About 10 to 15 anti-clockwise turns of torque were applied to the rod string. Control on the wrenches was lost and one of the wrenches flung around clockwise fatally injuring one worker and knocking the second worker unconscious.

YEAR:	1996	FILE:	0848
OCCUPATION:	Roughneck	AGE:	24
INDUSTRY:	Well Servicing with Service Rigs		
EXPERIENCE:	1.75 years		

DESCRIPTION: A service rig was swabbing the contents of an oil well located near Taber, Alberta. The work was being performed as a part of a completion program to bring the well into production. The oil company had contacted the consultant in charge of the job site and asked that swabbing be stopped. They asked that a sample of the produced fluids be take and that tubing be removed from the well so they could seal off the zone producing water. The roughneck took a sample of the produced fluids at the rig tank entry hatch and was later seen standing between the rig tank and the rig pump. The rest of the crew removed the swabbing equipment from the service rig. It is unknown why or when, but the roughneck who took the sample returned and entered the rig tank. As the crew were pulling the tubing, the rig manager found the roughneck who had taken the sample floating in the produced fluids in the tank. The roughneck was rescued by the crew and given two man CPR until they were relieved by ambulance attendants. He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead from drowning.

YEAR:	1998	FILE:	0887
OCCUPATION:	Derrickman	AGE:	33
INDUSTRY:	Servicing of Gas and Oil Wells by Means of Service Ri	gs	
EXPERIENCE:	Unknown		

DESCRIPTION: The worker was in the process of rigging out the tubing board of a service rig. He had connected his fall arrest line and disconnected his positioning lanyard. The fingers on the tubing board had been spread apart and the worker was standing on the diving board. As he turned, the worker slipped and fell through the hole left by the fingers. The worker fell approximately 4 metres until the fall arrest cable tightened. When the cable tightened it separated and the worker fell to the ground. The worker died as a result of injuries sustained in the fall.

YEAR:	1998	FILE:	0888
OCCUPATION:	Derrickhand	AGE:	26
INDUSTRY: EXPERIENCE:	Servicing of Gas and Oil Wells 4 years		

DESCRIPTION: A service rig crew was inserting the last joint of pipe into a well. The derrickhand was working on the tubing board, wearing a harness attached to a 1.8 m (6 feet) working

## ----SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-----

lanyard, anchored to the tubing board rail. After the derrickhand positioned the joint of pipe, the operator instructed him to "rig out" the tubing board (in preparation to dismantle the rig).

In the process of rigging out, the derrickhand transferred from his working lanyard to the retractable life line, used for going up and down the derrick ladder. The retractable life line was anchored to the crown of the derrick, above the ladder. He was working on the tubing board, therefore the retractable life line was across the path of the travelling blocks.

The blocks were still in motion and caught the retractable life line, pulling the derrickhand off the tubing board. The blocks sheared the line and he fell to the ground and sustained fatal injuries.

## Sub-sector # 4 (Drilling Of Oil & Gas Wells) (6)

YEAR:	1995	FILE:	0803
OCCUPATION: INDUSTRY:	Derrick man	AGE:	39
EXPERIENCE:	21 years		

DESCRIPTION: A worker was fatally injured as a result of a derrick collapse on a drilling rig at a well lease. The worker had just climbed to the crown of the derrick to assist with setting up the structure. the two front legs attached to the floor buckled while the two back legs attached to the stools on the drawworks skid bent and snapped off. The Derrick man was still attached to a fall arrester at the crown. The worker succumbed to the serious injuries he received from the impact of the fall.

YEAR:	1995	FILE:	0822
OCCUPATION:	Floor Hand	AGE:	33
INDUSTRY: EXPERIENCE:	Drilling of Oil and Gas Wells Unknown		

DESCRIPTION: The drilling crew was in the process of doing a drill stem test and had attempted to inflate the packers, but they would not inflate. The decision was made to rotate the drill string at an increased speed, for an additional 15-20 minutes. During this procedure the floor personnel had been instructed to 'clear the floor' which meant that workers were not be within a specific area of the rig floor.

The crew was approaching the end of a 12 hour shift, and the normal duties performed by the crew in the last hour of the shift is to clean the rig and have it ready for the next crew. The injured worker was washing the rig floor using a steam hose. The hose became tangled with the breakout tool cable and the rotating drill string and pulled the worker into the drill string, with the hose and cable being wrapped around the worker as the drill string rotated. The hose and cable continued to tighten as the pipe rotated, crushing the floor hand.

YEAR:	1996	FILE:	0845
OCCUPATION:	Floor hand - Oil Well Drilling	AGE:	25
INDUSTRY:	Drilling Oil & Gas Wells		
EXPERIENCE:	Unspecified		

#### --SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries------

DESCRIPTION: A crew was in the process of drilling a well. In the process of making a connection, adding a length of pipe to the drilling string, the hammer nut on the swivel caught a horizontal beam on the crown stand. This caused the bottom end of the pipe to whip toward the back of the rig floor. The floor hand was unable to move out of the way and was struck in the face and chest, and was thrown about 2.5 metres where his head contacted racked pipe. This resulted in fatal injuries to the floor hand.

YEAR:	1996	FILE:	0846
OCCUPATION:	Floor hand - Oil Well Drilling	AGE:	31
INDUSTRY:	Drilling Oil & Gas Wells		
EXPERIENCE:	287 hours, total rig experience, 72 hours as a flow	or hand	

DESCRIPTION: A crew was preparing a rig for a move at the time of the incident, by removing and storing pipe from the well. While raising a length of pipe so it could be uncoupled, the break-out tong of the floor man caught on the pipe, rising along with it. The floor hand was caught by the safety cables and pinned against the structure of the rig, causing fatal injuries.

YEAR:	1997	FILE:	0862
OCCUPATION:	Floor Hand	AGE:	20
INDUSTRY:	Drilling of Oil and Gas Wells		
EXPERIENCE:	Less than one year		

DESCRIPTION: The drilling crew was in the process of tripping out drill pipe, when they came to a set of cross over subs. These subs are used to adapt parts of the drilling string which cannot otherwise be screwed together because of the difference in thread size or design. The crew attached the tongs to the collars and sub and applied torque to break open the joint between the two. The Leed tong (tongs are the large wrenches that are latched onto drill pipe or drill collars in order to make up "tighten" or break our "loosen" a joint or drill pipe or drill collars) latch lug jaw failed, broke off, and struck the worker in the head fatally injuring him.

YEAR:	1997	FILE:	0877
OCCUPATION:	Floor hand	AGE:	22
INDUSTRY:	Drilling of Oil and Gas Wells		
EXPERIENCE:			

DESCRIPTION: An oil rig crew was finishing the process of laying down an oil rig derrick on two bed trucks in preparation for the rig move. The worker assisted a gin pole truck operator in rigging the A-leg section of a mast so a spreader bar could be removed and the A-leg lowered. The A-leg was secured to a lifting lug which was attached to a hook and winch line of a gin pole truck. The worker removed a pin that secured a spreader bar to the derrick and then climbed onto the derrick to remove the spreader bar. The worker polled the spreader bar off, lost his balance and fell forward under the suspended A-leg. Simultaneously, the lifting lug used in lowering and raising the A-legs failed. The A-leg fell on the worker, causing fatal injuries.

## Sub-sector # 5 (Downhole & Other Oilfield Services) (7)

YEAR:	1993	FILE:	0764
OCCUPATION:	Vacuum Truck Driver	AGE:	33

Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Information Services, July, 1999

# -----SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-----

INDUSTRY: EXPERIENCE: Vacuum Removal Wet and Dry Waste 2 Years

DESCRIPTION: A service company was performing a sand clean out of a well. Operations included pulling a wet string (pipe with sand and oil inside). This operation was aided by a vacuum truck and a mud can to contain the fluids. A blow plug was used to hold the fluids in the string. The worker assisted by retrieving the blow plug when it was thrown down from the derrick after removal. After acknowledging that the blow plug was being thrown to the pickup area, the worker turned and either slipped, tripped or fell under the path of the blow plug.

YEAR:	1993	FILE:	0771
OCCUPATION:	Swamper	AGE:	37
INDUSTRY:	Rathole Drilling, Oil & Gas		
EXPERIENCE:	9 months		

DESCRIPTION: A worker was killed when struck on the head by a drill pipe. The pipe was being loaded onto a truck at the time. The probable causes of this accident were poor loading techniques for pipes of various diameters; failure to secure all pipe prior to disengaging pipe from drill unit's tail chains; and lack of communication between the two workers. Written safe work procedures for loading of pipe of various diameters will be developed by the company.

YEAR:	1994	FILE:	0791
OCCUPATION:	Backhoe Operator	AGE:	34
INDUSTRY:	Vacuum Removal, Wet & Dry Waste		
EXPERIENCE:	number of years unknown		

DESCRIPTION: A worker was killed in a trench cave-in. The deceased had started repairing the sewer system on a private residence in the morning. The residence was a farm property. The deceased was attempting to locate the sewer line using a backhoe. Once located, he was going to enter the sewer to tie into the line and extend it out. He was working alone. In the afternoon, one of the home owners went out to see how the job was progressing he found the backhoe running, and the deceased missing. The trench was caved in.

YEAR:	1994	FILE:	0796
OCCUPATION:	Swamper	AGE:	20
INDUSTRY:	Well Servicing		
EXPERIENCE:	3 weeks		

DESCRIPTION: A worker was killed when the wellhead on a shallow gas well spun off struck him in the head. A second worker was seriously injured. The workers were venting the well prior to servicing it when the accident occurred.

YEAR: OCCUPATION: INDUSTRY: EXPERIENCE:	1995 Swamper Oilfield Downhole Services 4 months	FILE: AGE:	0821 18	
DESCRIPTION:	The lease owner of the site, had completed the drilling	of an oilwe	ell at the	

#### -SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-----

location of the incident and had contracted the services of a consultant to arrange for a service rig to come on the site to bring the well into production. The equipment was delivered to the site when the incident occurred. Two workers, a truck driver/picker operator and his helper(swamper) were unloading a set of service rig pipe racks from a flatbed trailer. The driver lowered the picker's outriggers, positioned the boom and lowered the hook to get ready to hook up to the pipe racks. The driver was storing the tie down chains and boomers on the rear of the tractor cab. The swamper climbed up on the flatbed and removed the rear tie down chain on the load. The front tie down chain fell to the ground and the right pipe rack tipped off the load. The swamper tried to grab the rack which was tipping. The right pipe rack (which was attached to the left rack by a chain) fell off the trailer pulling the left rack and the swamper with it. The pipe racks fell and landed on the swamper causing fatal injuries.

YEAR:	1997	FILE:	0872
OCCUPATION:	Truck Driver	AGE:	33
INDUSTRY:	Field Production Operators		
EXPERIENCE:	one week with company		

DESCRIPTION: The driver was employed with the trucking company to haul methanol to gas leases. The driver attempted to enter the gas lease and his truck became stuck. The lease operator radioed for a caterpillar to pull the truck out. The lease operator and the driver unloaded the methanol and the former left to perform other duties. The cat operator arrived and proceeded to unload the cat off the truck and then backed down the road a short distance. He moved the cat forward through a ditch and a grassy area to the front of the methanol truck. As he manoeuvred

the cat in front of the truck, he saw a dark form on the grass. Upon checking, he discovered that the truck driver had been run over by the caterpillar.

#### Note: There is one investigation under sub-sector 5 in 1998 that is still ongoing.

#### Sub-sector # 6 ( Tar Sands) (2)

YEAR: OCCUPATION:	1994 Senior Operator (Heavy Equipment) Working as Cable Reel Car Operator at the time of the a	FILE: AGE: accident	0783 33
INDUSTRY: EXPERIENCE:	Mine & Process Bituminous Sand 14 years		

DESCRIPTION: The operator of a cable reel car was crushed/asphyxiated by the impacting weight of the bucket wheel's counterweight assembly. The accident was the result of a critical structural support member on a bucket wheel excavator that failed. The structural failure resulted in the counterweight assembly on the bucket wheel to fall onto an adjacent piece of equipment, a cable reel car. The incident occurred at a tarsands mining operation. The deceased had been operating the cable reel car as one component in a combined operation with the bucket wheel excavator to rehandle tarsands that had been dumped in front of the bucket wheel previously. The excavating process had just commenced when the failure occurred.

YEAR:	1995	FILE:	0818
OCCUPATION:	Ground Hand	AGE:	31
INDUSTRY:	Mining and Processing of Bituminous Sand for Oil Extra	action	

#### ---SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries---

## EXPERIENCE:

Unknown

DESCRIPTION: The replacement groundsman was on the ground helping the cable tractor operator to relocate the dragline's power cable. This routine operation involves moving power cable with the cable tractor, so the walking shoes of the dragline would not step down onto the cable in the walking mode. After relocating the cable, the groundsman was directing the dragline operator to align the shoes in preparation for walking back to the previous location to resume excavation. The groundsman was in a crouched position with his back to and in direct line of travel of the reversing cable tractor. The back-up alarm on the tractor was not working. The tractor operator was unaware of the presence of the groundsman, and the groundsman did not sense the approaching tractor. The dragline operator tried to warn the groundsman by blowing the dragline horn. He did not succeed in capturing the attention of the groundsman. The dragline operator then used the radio to get the tractor operator to stop the equipment, but grabbed the wrong transmitter. By the time he had communicated with the tractor operator, the groundsman had been hit and run over by the cable tractor.

## Sub-sector # 7 (Petroleum Producers) (5)

YEAR:	1993	FILE:	0758
OCCUPATION:	Operator	AGE:	30
INDUSTRY:	Oil & Gas Producers, Exploration & Development		
EXPERIENCE:	Several years		

DESCRIPTION: A worker was fatally injured when a fire occurred at an oilfield battery processing facility. Information gained through the investigation indicates that the facility was totally destroyed by fire. It is, therefore, impossible to determine the exact cause of the fire at the location. The investigation involved company officials, witnesses who were near the scene, and testing was also carried out by numerous independent engineering and consulting companies. As a result, the company has put numerous preventive measures in place. They include both systems and procedural prevention. A training and safety services contractor has been retained to complete an audit of the company's safety program and work with the employer to institute a safety program.

YEAR:	1993	FILE:	0766
OCCUPATION:	Field Operator	AGE:	42
INDUSTRY:	Oil & Gas Producers - Exploration & Development		
EXPERIENCE:	17 years		

DESCRIPTION: A worker was fatally injured when the tractor he was operating rolled over. He was found under the tractor wheel assembly. The worker was cutting weeds on a gas lease. The tractor rolled over when driven over a drop off or sharp cut in ground elevation of 45.5 cm. Preliminary conclusions are that the worker forgot or did not know of the ground elevation difference which caused the tractor to roll over.

YEAR: OCCUPATION: INDUSTRY: EXPERIENCE:	1993 Oilfield Construction Crew Foreman Oilfield Construction 18 years	FILE: AGE:	0767 53
DESCRIPTION:	A worker was fatally injured from a fall at a new oil we	ll. The wo	orker was

#### ------SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries-----

checking the flow of the of the well into a 400 barrel storage tank. The gauge used to check the well flow was located on top of the storage tank, approximately 6 metres above the ground. There was evidence to show the worker was tired as he was working a double shift. He did not use the personal protective equipment available to him. The tank ladder was equipped with a fall arresting device. The worker did not wear the safety harness or don his Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, which were supplied for his use during tank gauging. The worker lost his footing on the vertical fixed ladder during his ascent or descent of the tank. The employers existing procedures on using such equipment have been reinforced and amended to ensure that they are strictly adhered to during flow testing of oil wells.

YEAR:	1996	FILE:	0828
OCCUPATION:	Inspection, Maintenance of Measuring Equipment	AGE:	53
INDUSTRY:	Oil & Gas Exploration and Development - Upstream (	Operations	
EXPERIENCE:	Unknown		

DESCRIPTION: The self-employed contractor was in the process of "Gauging" (manually measuring fluid levels) Sour Crude Oil Storage Tanks through openings at the top of the tanks known as "Thief Hatches." The worker was conducting the measurement from an elevated work platform 13' 2" from the ground level. The elevated work platform had guard-rails and was connected to ground by a stairway with hand-rails. Another worker on site witnessed the self-employed contractor go up to the elevated work platform without respiratory protective equipment and/or personal monitoring equipment. The worker became exposed to hydrogen sulfide gases while taking fluid level measurements resulting in losing consciousness and falling over the guard-rail of the stair-way to the ground.

Sub-sector # 8 ( Oilfield Trucking Services) (0) None

SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries		
Appendix A:	Terms, Definitions, and Formulas	
Lost-Time Claim	A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease which disables the worker beyond the day of injury. Included are claims for which wages compensation are paid, permanent disability claims, fatalities, and cases in which the injured worker is assigned light duties or other modified work.	
Person-Years	Person-year estimates are calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta Labour uses these data to estimate. An average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years foe each employer and each industry. One person-year ie equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.	
LTC Rate	The lost-time claim (LTC) rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost- time claims by the person-year estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The LTC rate represent the probability or risk of disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year's work. Comparisons of LTC rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.	
	LTC Rate = <u>Number of LTCs X 100</u> Estimated Person-years	
Duration (Days Lost)	The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled, and unable to perform normal wor duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from WCB. Alberta Labour obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.	
Duration Rate	The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of work days lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as "days lost per 100 person-years worked", and	
	indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.	
	Duration Rate = <u>Disability Days X 100</u> Estimated Person-Years	
WCB Accepted Fatality	An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which result from a work- related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.	
NEC	Means "Not Elsewhere Classified"	
UNS	Means "Unspecified"	

# ------SECTOR: Upstream Oil & Gas Industries------

# Appendix B: Upstream Oil and Gas 1998 Industry Codes

Sub-Sector 1: Industries:	Exploration 09200~Seismic Geophysical/Mineral Exploration 09201~Shot Hole Drilling
Sub-Sector 2:	<b>Oilfield Maintenance and Construction</b>
Industries:	06304~Oilfield Construction and/or Maintenance
Sub-Sector 3:	Well Servicing With Service Rigs
Industries:	09903~Well servicing with Service Rigs including Power Swivels
Sub-Sector 4:	<b>Drilling of Oil and gas Wells</b>
Industries:	09600~Drilling of Oil & Gas Wells
Sub-Sector 5: Industries	Downhole & Other Oilfield Services 06305~Field Production Operators 06306~Vacuum Removal of Waste 09900~Mud Logging 09902~Pressure Cleaning Services 09904~Rathole Drilling and Rig Anchoring 09911~Oilfield Downhole Services 09915~Well Casing Services 09921~Servicing Christmas Trees On Oil Wells 09927~Liquid Waste Treatment & Disposal
Sub-Sector 6: Industries:	<b>Tar Sands</b> 06600~Mining & Processing of Bituminous Sand 06601~Research/Development, Oil Sands and Heavy Oil Recovery
Sub-Sector 7:	Oil & Gas Exploration/Development
Industries:	06300~Oil and Gas Exploration & Development-Upstream Operations

Sub-Sector 8: Industries:

**Oilfield Trucking Services** 

50720~Oilfield Trucking Services

#### Appendix B: Upstreak Officiated One 1906 Failer recorded

Sub-Sector 1: Anno 10 Statements Set 1985 man one and Statements Set 1985 man one and Statement Statements Set 1995 man one and Statement Statements Set 1995 man in an anno 200 Statement Statement Statements Set 1995 man in anno 200 Statement Statement Statement Statements Set 1995 man in anno 200 Statement Statement Statement Statements Set 1995 man in anno 200 Statement Statement Statement Statement Statement Set 1995 man in anno 200 Statement Statemen

rub-Sector 4: Divining of Oil and gas Wells noustries: 09200-Dailing of Oil at Gas Walls steel to retime and redukeb vel base breas at east OTJ make well-teel

Andread and a second second a second second

The second of the second secon

tracing prover 1 Protecting 23 and 2 and 2

Duradon Fisia - Disability Clave X.198 Committed Parado-rear

Catalog Association

An exception and function is the each of a work in which result from a work which has been exception or expression and which has been excepted by the WCS rol concernstation. A function, is coursed to the year it is accepted.

Lorent "They have believe " Immediated

Address The Property of Lines / St

the state is the second to be a second of the provident of the second second second second second second second

